

REMARKS:

In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks please reconsider the current application.

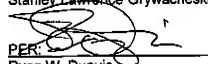
In amending the claims, three claims have been cancelled and three new claims have been added. The total number of independent claims remains unchanged and accordingly no additional claim fee should now be required.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to include the subject matter of previously submitted claim 3 which the examiner indicated was allowable if rewritten in independent form. Similarly independent claim 18 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of previously submitted dependent claim 19 and independent claim 22 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of previously submitted dependent claim 23.

The remaining independent claims 17 and 24 are accepted substantially in the form already allowed by the examiner.

Favorable reconsideration of this application is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted  
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